

21 NCAC 32R .0101 is amended, with changes, as published in 30:22 NCR pages 2404-2405 as follows:

**21 NCAC 32R .0101 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIRED**

(a) Continuing Medical Education (CME) is defined as education, ~~training~~ training, and activities to increase knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of healthcare to the public. The purpose of CME is to maintain, develop, or improve the physician's knowledge, skills, professional ~~performance~~ performance, and relationships ~~which that~~ physicians use to provide services for their patients, their practice, the public, or the profession.

(b) Each person licensed to practice medicine in the State of North ~~Carolina~~ Carolina, ~~except those holding a residency training license~~, shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's current or intended specialty or area of practice every three years. Beginning on January 1, 2017, July 1, 2017, every physician who prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training license, shall [take] complete at least three hours of CME, from the required 60 hours of Category 1 CME, that is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.

(c) The three year period described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule begins on the physician's first birthday following initial licensure.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); ~~G.S.~~ 90-14(a)(15); S.L. 2015-241, 12F.16(b) and 12F.16(c);*

*Eff. January 1, 2000;*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001;*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1, 2016.*

*Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*

21 NCAC 32S .0216 is amended, with changes, as published in 30:22 NCR pages 2404-2405 as follows:

**21 NCAC 32S .0216 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

(a) A physician assistant shall complete at least ~~100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years,~~  
~~at least~~ 50 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years. ~~which~~ The CME ~~must~~ shall be  
recognized by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as Category I CME. A  
physician assistant shall provide CME documentation for inspection by the board or its agent upon request. The two  
year period shall ~~run from~~ begin on the physician assistant's ~~birthday, beginning in the year 1999, or the~~ first  
birthday following initial licensure, whichever occurs later.

(b) Beginning on ~~January 1, 2017,~~ July 1, 2017, a physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances ~~must~~  
shall complete at least two hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, designed specifically to address controlled  
substance prescribing practices. ~~The controlled substance prescribing~~ [CME,] CME shall include instruction on  
controlled substance ~~[prescribing,]~~ prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled  
substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.

~~(b)(c)~~ A physician assistant who possesses a current certification with the NCCPA shall be deemed in compliance  
with the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule. The physician assistant ~~must~~ shall attest on his or her annual  
renewal that he or she is currently certified by the NCCPA. Physician assistants who attest that they possess a  
current certificate with the NCCPA shall not be exempt from the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement  
of Paragraph (b) of this ~~[Rule and must]~~ Rule. Physician Assistants shall complete the required two hours of  
controlled substance CME unless such CME is a component part of their certification activity.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); ~~90-9.3; 90-18(e)(13);~~ 90-18.1; S.L. 2015-241,  
12F.16(b) and 12F.16(c);  
Eff. September 1, 2009;  
Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; November 1, 2010;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,  
2016.  
Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*